

From: Andrew Thomas andrew@thewestwoodvillage.com
Subject: Re: Westwood Forward Town Halls
Date: December 14, 2017 at 12:19 PM
To: Michael Skiles [REDACTED], Gibson Nyambura Gibson.Nyambura@lacity.org
Cc: Jasmine Shamolian jasmine.shamolian@lacity.org, Chloe Pan [REDACTED]



Michael's characterization of the town hall is correct, except I counted at least 70 people at the meeting. The meeting was widely publicized and those in attendance represented every stakeholder group.

I understand why some people are opposed to this effort, but this discussion needs to be fact-based. I'm glad there is video of the meeting.

Andrew

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On Dec 14, 2017, at 11:44 AM, GSA President [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Gibson,

On behalf of Westwood Forward, I'd like to apologize for not personally inviting you to the Westwood Forward town halls. Although we would have loved to have you there, it simply did not occur to us that DONE, as a neutral party, might be willing to help us facilitate such discussions. With that being said, we publicized the town halls as widely as we could online, at public meetings such mailing list. Our publicity efforts brought about 55 people to our townhall at Skylight Gardens and 45 to our townhall on campus-- which I think is a pretty good turnout for such events; and this turnout was an extremely diverse cross-section of our community. Furthermore, our publicity was extensive enough that it reached the offices of city and state officials, such as Koretz's and Sebastian Ridley Thomas', both of whom were in attendance.

Finally, contrary to our opponent's assertions that we silenced our opponents and monopolized the time with lies, I'd encourage you to watch our live-streams of these town halls, which have been on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/westwoodforward/videos/285915131929184/>
<https://www.facebook.com/westwoodforward/videos/281439132376784/>

From these you can see that we opened with a brief discussion of what our proposal is and then opened up for anyone in the community to offer 2 minutes of public comment. Because people could sign up for comment multiple times, people like Steve Sann got to speak a total of 6 times between these two meetings. You can also verify the sourcing for all of what we said on our official statement which is on our website:
<http://www.westwoodforward.com/resources/westwood-forward-announcement.pdf>

Finally, if you have any remaining doubts that we facilitated a civil and honest discussion that made every efforts to include our entire community, I encourage you to ask Jasmine from Koretz's office, or Andrew from the BID, whom I have cc'd.

Best regards,
Michael Skiles
President, UCLA Graduate Students Association
Graduate Chair, UC Council of Student Body Presidents